

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00802 190608Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 190456Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 297

UNCLAS LILONGWE 0802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, EGEN, MI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS IN MALAWI

REF: STATE 177203

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTEL FOLLOWS:

2. VIPHYA PULP PROJECT. EMBASSY HAS KEPT DEPT INFORMED OF ALL MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS PROJECT FOR LAST FEW YEARS. A NUMBER OF US BANKS AND PULP/PAPER COMPANIES HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN PAST ALTHOUGH SIZE OF PROJECT (ESTIMATED \$330 MILLION) AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPORTATION HAVE TO NOW PUT THEM OFF. UNDP, WORLD BANK AND FAO HAVE ALL PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR PROJECT IN PAST. JAAKO POYRY AND CO. OF FINLAND DID PRE-INVESTMENT AND PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY. GOM STILL SEEKING FINANCING FOR PROJECT. MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS REPORT THAT WEST GERMAN CONSORTIUM BEING PUT TOGETHER TO FUND AND IMPLEMENT PROJECT. FRG AMBASSADOR HERE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECT SEVERL MONTHS AGO, BUT THER THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION YET OF SUCCESS. LONDON REP OF PARSONS-WHITTEMORE VISITED PROJECT AREA IN EARLY 1976 AND TOLD EMBOFF THAT TREMLANTATION WAS IMPRESSIVE.

3. DWANGWA SUGAR SCHEME. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN AJOINT VENTURE BETWEEN GOM AND LONRHO ALTHOUGH LONRHO HAS DECIDED TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION TO AS LOW AS 10 PCT AND MANAGEMENT OF MILL. GOM REPORTED SEARCHING NOW FOR PARTICIPATION FROM OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. CONSULTANTS NAMED BY LONRHO IN 1974 WRE EDWARD L. BATEMAN, LTD. OF SOUTH AFRICA. SINCE 1975, CAMECO
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OF THIBADEAUX, LA. HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING EQUIPMENT AND

MACHINERY SALES TO PROJECT AND HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EXIMBANK. BANK OF AMERICA, THROUGH LOCAL INTEREST IN COMMERCIAL BANK OF MALAWI, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FINANCING SOME OF EQUIPMENT COSTS. REP OF BATEMAN LTD. WAS GIVEN NAMES OF TEN US BANK REPS WHO HAD CALLED AT EMBASSY IN 1975.

4. BLANTYRE WATER SYSTEM. MASTER PLAN HAS LONG BEEN ADOPTED FOR CONTINUOUS EXPANSION OF THE SYSTEM. CURRENT PHASE FOUR BEING FINANCED BY BRITISH ODA AND COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO EXPAND AVERAGE CAPACITY FROM EIGHT TO TEN MISSION GALLONS/DAY. PHASE FIVE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED ESTIMATED \$3 MILLION PROJECT PROPOSAL TO WORLD BANK AND IS TO GO OUT TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING IN EARLY 1977 IF FUNDING APPROVED.

5. LILONGWE WATER SYSTEM. GENERAL PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP BY GOM MINWORKS AND SUBMITTED TO EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR CONSIDERATION. PROJECT COSTS ESTIMATED AT \$2.5 MILLION FOR EXTENSION OF SYSTEM TO NEW RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND TO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SITE. ANOTHER \$660,000 WORTH OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM ALSO TO BE INCLUDED. MINWORKS WILL BRING IN CONSULTANT AFTER FUNDING FOUND. IF EDF FUNDED, HOWEVER, EDF WOULD DRAW UP LIST OF FIRMS FROM WHICH GOM COULD CHOOSE. PRESUMABLY ALL FIRMS WOULD BE EUROPEAN.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LILONG00802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-1222
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760839/aaaabhmq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 177203
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS IN MALAWI
TAGS: BENC, EGEN, BEXP, MI
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006